

NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Mary Jane Cooper, Inspector General

For Immediate Release:
December 21, 2005

For Further Information:
Vincent Funelas (609) 292-8820

Inspector General Conducts Operations Review Report Reveals Weakness in SCC Design and Construction Infrastructure

TRENTON – Inspector General Mary Jane Cooper today issued a report detailing weaknesses in the infrastructure of the New Jersey Schools Construction Corporation's (SCC) Design and Construction Division and offering recommendations for strengthening the organization.

“Our review revealed the absence of an overall coordinated plan to enable Design and Construction to efficiently build schools,” Inspector General Cooper said. “Moving forward, it is our hope that the SCC will continue to adopt these and future recommendations made by this office to ensure the efficient construction of schools.”

The Inspector General's review of the Division found a lack of clearly defined authority and responsibility and appropriate supervision, which resulted in extreme differences of work practices and employee frustration. The review also revealed indications that the technical skills of staff in some critical positions were insufficient.

Some key recommendations from this report include:

- Reorganize SCC management and staff into appropriate operating divisions to ensure effective oversight and monitoring.
- Evaluate organizational needs of management for each and all SCC projects to ensure efficiency.
- Determine the organization's manpower requirements considering the current capital plan of construction projects and the estimate of work to be completed.
- Train staff regarding responsibilities, authority and appropriate oversight relationships with Project Management Firms.
- Implement an information management system, including the appropriate technology, that will streamline financial and project status reporting used by the Project Officers.

The Inspector General focused on four primary areas of the division – organizational structure, management operations, human resources and staffing – to determine its ability to perform its critical role to the SCC's mission. This two-month analysis involved document review and interviews with more than 40 management and non-clerical staff members.

###